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(d) the total number of Ceded districts coolies that have stayed in the tea gardens as labourers on 1st April 1925, and how many of them are males and how many females; and

(e) whether any separate lodgings are provided on the estates for females or whether they are mixed up with males?

A.—(a) Government have no information for the year ending March 1925. The number of labourers (including dependents) recruited from the Ceded districts during the year ending 30th June 1924 was as follows:—

Anantapur	...	...	...	...	1,369
Bellary	...	...	...	...	2,146
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	922
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	145

(b) The numbers that were returned as Sirdars were as follows:—

Anantapur	...	...	...	...	475
Bellary	...	...	...	...	604
Cuddapah	...	...	...	...	247
Kurnool	...	...	...	...	50

(c) & (d) The Government have no information.

(e) Women are allowed to live with their own men folk. Unattached women do not usually go to work on estates.

The working of the Planters' Labour Act I of 1903.

* 305 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons convicted under the Planters' Labour Act I of 1903 in 1924 as compared with that in 1923 and 1922;

(b) now that the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act (XII of 1920) has been repealed,

(i) whether the Local Government propose to repeal the penal and the other provisions of the Planters' Labour Act in regard to workmen's breaches of contract;

(ii) if so, when they will bring the necessary legislation, and

(iii) if not, on what grounds are the present provisions in the Planters' Labour Act as to workmen's breach of contract to be retained;

(c) what rules Government have published or propose to publish as to the provision for the lodging of labourers and comforts and amenities of life under the Planters' Labour Act; and

(d) what reports Government have called for and received from local authorities in these respects for the years 1923-24 and 1924-25?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the annual reports on the working of the Planters' Labour Act for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924 recorded in G.Os. No. 786, Law (General), dated the 7th March 1923, No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, and No. 934, Law (General), dated the 18th March 1925 which were placed on Editors' Table.

(b) (i), (ii) & (iii) The Government do not propose to take any action at present towards the repeal of the provisions of the Act.

(c) No rules have been published by the Government, and there is no proposal at present to frame any rules.

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(d) No reports are received by the Government. The attention of the hon. Member is, however, invited to the reports of the District Magistrate, Malabar, recorded in the Government Orders referred to in the answer to clause (a) in which it is stated that the housing, sanitary and medical arrangements in the estates to which the Act applied are satisfactory.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ Now that the Workmen's Breaches of Contract Act has been repealed, I want to know the reason why the Madras Government alone retains some of the portions of the Madras Planters' Labour Act which contains what are called criminal portions. While the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act which is applicable to the whole of India has been repealed, I want to know why some of the corresponding provisions in the Madras Planters' Labour Act which are called criminal portions have not been repealed.”

The hon. KHAN BAHADUR MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ The Government have their own reason.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ What reason ? ”

The hon. KHAN BAHADUR MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I am sorry I am unable to give it.”

Collectorates.

Report of the Collector of South Kanara on B.P. No. 2871, dated 18th July 1923.

* 306 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR HAJI ABDULLA HAJI QASIM SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House B.P. No. 2871, Routine, dated 18th July 1923, and the report of the Collector of South Kanara in the matter ?

A—The whole question of the grant of increments in the time scale to unpassed men has been settled in G.O. No. 164, Law (Education), dated 4th February 1925, which has been published in the Gazette. The Government do not propose to place the prior correspondence on the table.

Appointments.

Local committees established by the Staff Selection Board.

* 307 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to G.O. No. 76, dated 6th February 1924—

(a) the number of local committees established by the Staff Selection Board at convenient centres throughout the Presidency to assist them in the discharge of their duties ;

(b) whether lists have been prepared of candidates for employment in the Government offices in the City of Madras ; whether they have been submitted to qualifying examination ; and whether lists of those who passed such an examination and are otherwise competent have been published, and if so, when and where ;